

FretFixxer "How To"

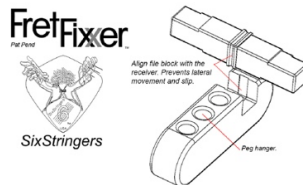
1. Check for frets lifted up out of the fret slot. If any, tap down and glue. For many frets we can use a capo to clamp it down while glue sets.
2. Make sure the neck is perfectly flat to get an accurate read using a fret rocker.
 - a. Need a notched Straight Edge that matches the guitar's scale length.
 - b. With strings on and tuned, position the notched straight edge teeth to the Bridge side of the frets, this is where there is no finger board wear. Ignore finger and string wear daylight, reference the no wear ledges on the bridge side of frets. Guitars that are played a lot will always have some finger string wear on the fretboard.
 - c. The notched straight edge will typically show that the neck is bowed in Relief toward player's chest. In some cases the neck bows outward which causes string buzz. In this case, loosen the truss rod turning left, 1/16th turns, slowly, walk in a slight Relief. Now play the guitar, did the buzz go away?
 - d. In the case of In-Bow, loosen strings turn the truss rod right to tighten, 1/16th turns, slowly walk in a flat neck.
3. Fret Rocker - Check for high frets. (FretFixxer is not a Fret Rocker)
 - a. Only when the neck is perfectly flat can a fret rocker show us a true read!!!
 - b. Fret Rockers span 3 and only 3 frets, the middle fret and two next door neighbors. When the Rocker rocks, the middle fret is high.
 - c. When you find a high fret, you CANNOT reference that fret again with the Rocker until it is corrected. It is high, if you include that fret to check more frets it Will Not tell you the truth. Mark with a sharpie the area of the fret that causes rocking.
4. FretFixxer features:
 - a. FretFixxer has four sides, each a different length for different span lengths of three frets. ID the correct side to span only three frets.
 - b. The file channel is a conic curve that makes it universally compatible for Vintage Narrow to Jumbo Wide frets. Set atop a wide crown it will rock because the wide crown is wider than the higher part of the conic curve, which is why it is not to be used as a rocker.
 - c. The diamond file is 240 grit. As with all diamond files when filing soft metal such as silver nickel, do not dig the files into the fret, doing so risks clogging the file. And for stainless steel frets do not dig in because the diamond is bonded to the file with nickel plating that is much softer than the stainless, digging into a stainless fret binds

the file action creating a tug of war between the stainless and the nickel bond, and in every case the nickel loses, and diamond grit is ripped out of the file.

- d. Use only the weight of the file and just enough pressure so that the file does not bind into the fret.

5. FretFixxer can be used with or without the handle.

- a. Without the handle, center the file channel atop the fret, most people will use two hands, but it is possible to use one. Making sure the file is going straight, level and crown the fret at the same time. Start slow to get used to going straight.
- b. With the handle, first position file block as without the handle, then push the handle onto the File bar, making sure the center file block is received by the conforming cutouts in the handle, this prevents lateral motion.



- c. Place index finger around the front of handle and apply some pressure, gripping the handle tighter to the file bar. When lifting the file up, apply index finger pressure. Again, start slow to make sure you have the straight stroke, and level and crown the fret at the same time.
- d. Go slow and dead straight to start to get used to how it moves, and increase speed as you get the hang of it.

6. Polishing the fret:

- a. Any time a fret is filed, no matter what kind of file is used, the fret requires polishing.
- b. There are many ways to do this, scotch-brite, steel wool, fret polishing pads, fine sandpaper, whichever way you like. I do not like steel wool for electric guitars because it is magnetically attracted to the pickups. Most people use 600 sandpaper to start, and walk it in to 1,200 and even 2,000 sandpaper. When almost done, tamp the sandpaper to a damp sponge, dampening the paper, this provides a shiny finish.

That is all there is to it.

One Tool, one step, perfect precision leveled and crowned fret in about a minute.

No need to repair bulldozed flat top frets because FretFixxer does not destroy the fret crown.

FretFixxer is the one and only tool that spot levels and crowns the fret at the same time.